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March 12, 2007

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
PA Department of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am very concerned about the new "dog law enforcement team" that Governor Rendell has recently appointed. I feel that this would be putting anyone that trains or breeds dogs for fun or profit to be forced out. It is a combination of business and pleasure for most people that raise and train dogs for any discipline

Regarding some of the issues:

- Dogs must be exercised for 20 min. a day on a leash (training or allowing a dog/hound to run loose in a field does not constitute exercise) is absurd. What do they think training is? After a dog has been out training in a field for hours, isn't that exercise? The owners could have to put their dogs on a hot walker for horses to get this all accomplished in one day.
- What trainer/owner would have the time to fill out all those forms (3-6) for each Dog every day? Regarding the dog's feeding, watering, cleaning of kennel and exercising, that is asking way to much of the any trainer or individual. They would have to employ a person just for that ritual.
- DAILY sanitation of all kennels, panels, houses, bowls and bedding material. I only see that being necessary if there are sick dogs. You would have to hire another person for this unnecessary work also. What would you do with all the dogs while you were waiting for all this equipment to dry. I don't even think that child/elder care homes have this many sanitary regulations. (If they did, there wouldn't be any) I want things to be clean, but this is pushing it way way too far.
- * This will put all the kennels that raise dogs, shelters, or any type of dog training out of business in a hurry. Especially, with all the extra help you would have to hire. It would not be feasible. The prices of dogs and training of dogs would be sky high, if there were any dog breeders or trainers left in business.
- Veterinary health certificates for any dogs being transported in or out of state. At (\$60.-\$100. per dog). Is this for the vets to get more revenue? For the exams, quarantine for 14 days, and segregation to size and gender, that would be enormously over what the ordinary trainer/owner could afford. Why? Again, I could understand if there was a disease that was going around and killing dogs. But, why do it just to do it? What is the purpose? Pretty soon there won't be any dogs owned by the regular person. Only the rich will own dogs. This in my opinion is bias.
- How do you expect other states to comply?

- There is no cap on daily accrual of fines and penalties should your kennel be in violation. Why is that? Who is behind this? All I see is that this would push the little guy out of business. Dogs are a big business, I am sure there are "Big \$ " that would love to capture this for themselves. Who wants to monopolize Pennsylvania's dog trade?
- I have a question: What is the reason that cat owners don't have to get licenses for their cats?
- This only going to hurt dogs in the long run. There will be much more inbreeding (line breeding) since it will cost so much to bring in new bloodlines.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne M. Bathon-Raleigh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne M. Bathon-Raleigh

3098 Buffalo Valley Road
Spring Grove, PA 17362

717-235-1647